

HⁱGHlights

Hazleton General Hospital
Here to Help

January - April 1997

A Newsletter of the Hazleton General Hospital

Vol. 11, No. 1

EMPLOYEES HONORED

*for their
Dedication & Service*

Ninety Hazleton General Hospital staff members and retirees were honored at the Hospital's Ninth Annual Employee Recognition Dinner held at Edgewood in the Pines Restaurant and Golf Course on April 17.

The Hospital honored recipients Anthony Curcio, Lee Ann Hamilton, Mary Lou Rosato and Albert Woodring for dedicating the highest number of years of service. They have dedicated thirty years of service to HGH.

Honored for twenty-five years of employment at the hospital were Cassandra Banavage, Suzanne Johnson, Diane Morris, Jonathan Plesce, Helene Radley, Mary Sweeney and Gloria Wisemiller.

Twenty-year recipients included Alice Danenhower, Janice Fontana, Joann Grohol, Kathleen Herchak, Shirley Hinkle, Betsy Saras, Clare Ulshafer, Joanne Woodring, Teresa Lovecchio Yatko and Suzanne Zeller.

Employees who were recognized for fifteen years of service were Mary Blozowskie, Leo Breznik, Mary Ann Bruni, Pierre Cutris, Arlene DeMelfi, Marybeth Elias, Sandra Graylin, Kathleen Guida, Jean Gurnavage, Ellen Jenkins, Mary Kost,



Employees honored for thirty years of service include (L-R) 1st row - Anthony Curcio, E. Richard Moore, President/CEO - presented the awards, and Lee Ann Hamilton (2nd row) - Hospital representatives for the awards ceremony include: Earl Searfoss, Chairperson of the Board of Directors, T. Jeffrey MacMillan, SVP of Human Resources, and Tim Farley, Director of Personnel Services.



Twenty-five year recipients include (L-R) 1st row - Gloria Wisemiller, Cassandra Banavage, and Mary Sweeney. 2nd row - Suzanne Johnson and Helene Radley.

Stanley Piaskowski, Jean Popalis, Jeanette Riccio, Marie Snyder, Marcella Staivecki, Joan Zancusky and Nita Zeller.

Ten-year service honorees were Louise Bahrt, Roseann Bevich, Ann Bredbenner, Mary Sue Currier, Marybeth Delfine, Lynn Hoegg, Robyn Jordan, Ann Kapes, Lorrie Kellmer, Daria Komishock, Matilda Marencin, Nancy Matyas, Judith McHugh, Paula Mills, E. Richard Moore, Thomas Schiefer, Nancy Stank, Lauren Stanziola, Anne Usiak, Joyce Wassell, Kathleen Yeager and Melanie Yencho.

Recognized for five years of service were Carol Capozzelli, Maureen Castiglione, Colleen Ann Conahan, Janice DeFrancisco, Judith DePersia, Regina L. DiBonifazio, Patricia Hebal, David Hirko, Mary Lou Kurtz, Maryann Leechak, Daria Lisbinski, Mary Maranki, Dorothy Mazzochetti, Anna Marie Michaels, Stacey Noss, Clara Preputnick, (continued on page 2 . . .)

(continued from page 1 . . .) Carmella Pretti, Janis Pupach, Elizabeth Racho, Eugene Rybarczyk, Denise Schlauch, Cathy Sweeney, Russell Ulshafer, Lynn Walters, Linda Wilkinson and Charlene Williams.

Three individuals who retired from the staff in 1996 were honored: John Cherluck, Kathleen Dill and Marion Zabitchuck.

Also present at the Recognition Dinner were those staff members who had been selected as Employee of the Month during 1996. These include Paul Hovanetz, Mary Catherine Bachman, Rose Ann Bertuola, Shirley Hinkle, Gina Omolecki, Barbara Gregory, Curt Gimbi, Donna Gallagher, Louise Cameron, Irene DelRegno, Dina Cauley and Suzanne Johnson.

Co-Chairpersons of the Employee Activities Committee, which plans social events for the hospital, were recognized for their service in office in 1996-1997. They were Lisa Anderson and Rosemarie Michalesko. Both received gift certificates.

Service awards were presented by E. Richard Moore, President and CEO; Earl Searfoss, Chairperson of the Board of Directors; and T. Jeffrey MacMillan, Senior Vice-President of Human Resources.

The invocation was given by Rev. William Fairchild. Timothy Farley, Director of Personnel Services, served as the toastmaster for the evening.



Twenty year recipients include: (L-R) 1st row - Joanne Woodring, Teresa Lovecchio Yatko, Clare Ulshafer, Joann Grohol. 2nd row - Suzanne Zeller, Shirley Hinkle, and Kathleen Herchak.



Employees honored for fifteen years of service include: (L-R) 1st row - Mary Kost, Jeanette Riccio, Kathleen Guida, Mary Blozowskie.

2nd row - Marybeth Elias, Arlene DeMelfi, Joan Zancusky, Stanley Piaskowski, Ellen Jenkins, Jean Popalis, Nita Zeller, and Pierre Curtis.

Ten-year honorees were: (L-R) 1st row - Marybeth Delfine, Lynn Hoegg, Lorrie Kellmer, Nancy Stank, Roseann Bevich, Matilda Marencin. 2nd row - Melanie Yencho, Daria Komishock, Ann Bredbenner, Ann Kapes, E. Richard Moore, Robyn Jordan, Anne Usiak, Nancy Matyas, Paula Mills, and Louise Bahrt.



Employees of the Month honored include: (L-R)

1st row - Mary Catherine Bachman, Irene DelRegno, Louise Cameron. 2nd row - Barbara Gregory, Shirley Hinkle, Paul Hovanetz, and Suzanne Johnson.



Recognized for five years: (L-R) 1st row - Colleen Ann Conahan, Maryann Leechak, Daria Lisbinski, Anne Marie Michaels, Judith DePersia, Carmella Pretti, 2nd row - Eugene Rybarczyk, Elizabeth Racho, Mary Maranki, Maureen Castiglione, Cathy Sweeney, Charlene Williams, Linda Wilkinson, Dorothy Mazzochetti, Mary Lou Kurtz, Lynn Walters, and Janis Pupach.

Welcome! New Employees



Tammy Barkus
Nursing Aide



Thomas Cerio
Housekeeping Aide



Karen Collins
Payroll Specialist



Susan Crawford
Mental Health Tech.



Anthony DeLuca
Mental Health Tech.



Deborah Donahue
Laboratory Aide



Pamela Dudinyak
Dietary Aide



Helen Hearity
Dietary Aide



Mary Kathleen Holloman
Housekeeping Aide



Kimberly Kessler
Mental Health Tech.



Peggy Kochin
RN



Tracy Luson
LPN



Bambi Maslo
Nursing Aide



Michelle McAloose
RN



Margaret Pelcheck
LPN



Fred Sadak
Ultrasonographer



Judy Shields
Clerk Typist



Rene Stringent
LPN



Karen Tray
Medical Transcriptionist



Hope Zoldi
Nursing Assistant

HGH Employees of the Month



January Employee of the Month

Diane M. Edstrom, LPN, an employee at HGH for twelve years, is a nurse on the second floor.

Diane was nominated by a patient who stated, "Diane has a very caring attitude towards the elderly. She gave me moral support. I have never had the experience of finding one so devoted to her profession like Diane. She is not only a nurse but a friend."

HGH is proud that Diane was our Employee of the Month for January.

February Employee of the Month

Rose Marie Devaney, an employee at HGH for ten years, is a housekeeping aide on the fourth floor.

Rose Marie was nominated by a patient's daughter who stated, "My mother and I were both impressed with how hard Rose works to meet the needs of the patient. Rose is totally dedicated to her job."

HGH is proud that Rose was our Employee of the Month for February.



March Employee of the Month

Christine Ulshafer, an employee at HGH for eight years, is a clerk-typist in the operating room.

Christine was nominated by a patient who stated, "Christine understood my concerns before and after my surgery. Her genuine concern for my physical and emotional well being is the reason I am nominating her for this honor."

HGH is proud that Christine was our Employee of the Month for March.

GHHA *Spring Sprint*

Employees get out your running/walking sneakers and join us for the GHHA Spring Sprint, formerly the Hazleton-Saint Joseph Medical Center 5 mile run/3 mile walk, on Sunday, May 18, at St. Joseph Freeland Primary Care Clinic. You could be the lucky winner of a 21-speed, Mongoose Sycamore Mountain Bike, which was donated by Pete's Bicycle Shop.

The run begins at 10 a.m. and the walk starts at 9:30 a.m. There will be awards for the first male and female GHHA employees to finish the run and walk. The early registration fee is \$10 and the late fee is \$12. Each participant is guaranteed a t-shirt with registration by April 25.

You can pick up a registration form from the

Public Affairs Office or call Jennifer Bachman at ext. 4945 to have one mailed to you.

We wish to thank our gold, silver and bronze sponsors for their dedication and support of this important fundraiser: Hazleton-Standard Speaker, Bemis, Precision Design, McNelis Home Care, Pete's Bicycle Shop, Sam-Son Productions, Inc., WYLN 35, Fiberite, Dial, Oldies 103.5, 98 Rock and WAZL 1490, First Priority Health, Hazleton Eye Center-Dr. James P. McAvoy, Sony and Union Camp.

All proceeds from the GHHA Spring Sprint will benefit the Greater Hazleton Health Alliance's shuttle van.



Doctor Donates His Book To Medical Library

Julio R. Rojas, M.D., Hazleton ophthalmologist, wrote a textbook in Spanish for medical school students. The 270-page book contains information on the most common eye conditions that ophthalmologists treat in their practices. The book will be used in Latin America, South America and other Spanish-speaking nations.

"I wrote the book, because there is a definite need for such a publication in Spanish-speaking countries around the world," stated Rojas.

"My book will be used in Spanish teaching hospitals where young men and women continue to study the treatment of eye diseases and sight conservation, and who will become the next generation of ophthalmologists."

He has donated a copy of his book to the Medical Library. Receiving the donation is Elaine Curry, Medical Librarian.

In addition to Dr. Rojas' practice in Hazleton, he is a clinical professor in ophthalmology at the Hershey Medical Center.



"I wrote the book, because there is a definite need for such a publication in Spanish-speaking countries around the world."

Dr. Julio R. Rojas

FRANK FALCONE, JR., D.M.D.

Frank Falcone, Jr., D.M.D., received his Doctor of Dental Medicine degree from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey in 1990 and completed a four-year residency in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at the SUNY Health Science Center at Brooklyn/Kings County Hospital Center in 1994.

In June 1995, Dr. Falcone completed a fifth year of postdoctoral training in a full-time Fellowship program sponsored by UMDNJ. Part of that year was spent in South America, first in Columbia, with "Healing the Children" on a medical mission to treat cleft lip and palate anomalies and later in Venezuela performing surgery for patients with skeletofacial deformities. Rounding out the year, he spent four months devoted to temporomandibular joint surgery at Staten Island Hospital and three months in facial, cosmetic and ENT surgery at Morristown Memorial Hospital.

Dr. Falcone is a diplomate of the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons, attaining his Board Certification in March, 1996. He is also a Fellow of the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons, Fellow of the American College of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons, member of the American Dental Society of Anesthesiology, and member of the American Dental Association. Currently, he is employed at C.J. Getter Oral Surgery, P.C. here in Hazleton.



ELENA RUZZI FARRELL, D.O.

Elena Ruzzi Farrell, D.O., graduated in the top 10% of her class from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, where she received her Doctor of Osteopathy. She continued her training at Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine where she served as Chief Intern and Chief Ophthalmology Resident.

Dr. Farrell's is a member of the American Osteopathic Medical Society, Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Society, American Medical Society, Montgomery County Medical Association, American Association of Ophthalmology, Pennsylvania Association of Ophthalmology, American Society of Cataract & Refractive Surgery, Contact Lens Association of Ophthalmology, and American Osteopathic College of Ophthalmology, Otolaryngology, Head & Neck Surgery.



ADRIAN SECHERESIU, M.D.

Adrian Secheresiu, M.D., received his Doctor of Medicine degree in 1984 from the Institute of Medicine and Pharmacy in Cluj-Napoca, Romania. He completed an Internal Medicine residency at McKeesport Hospital, McKeesport, PA and served as Chief Resident there from July 1990 - July 1991.

Dr. Secheresiu practiced in Internal Medicine for two years in a private setting affiliated with Miami Valley Hospital and Good Samaritan Hospital in Dayton, Ohio. In addition to his practice, he held a teaching faculty position for the Internal Medicine Residency Program.

Dr. Secheresiu is a Primary Care physician at the Saint Joseph Satellite Clinic in Freeland. He and his wife, Emilia, have one son, Paul-Tudor.



EMELIA SECHERESIU, M.D.

Emelia Secheresiu, M.D., received her Doctor of Medicine in 1985 from the Institute of Medicine and Pharmacy in Cluj-Napoca, Romania. She completed her residency at McKeesport Hospital, McKeesport, PA.

Dr. Secheresiu is a Primary Care physician located at the Saint Joseph Satellite Clinic in Weatherly. She and her husband, Adrian, have one son, Paul-Tudor.



BHUPENDRA MODI, M.D. *(Photo Not Available)*

Bhupendra Modi, M.D., successfully completed an Accredited Clinical Anesthesiology Residency at Albert Einstein College of Medicine/Montefiore Medical Center in New York City. Dr. Modi worked on the Level I Trauma Team and Born Unit At Jacobi Medical Center in Bronx, New York. He held an academic position as an Obstetric Anesthesia Fellow at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center, New York.

Dr. Modi is a member of the American Medical Association, American Society of Anesthesiologists, American Society of Regional Anesthesia, The New York State Society of Anesthesiologists and Society of Obstetric Anesthesia and Perinatology.

Tax Shelter Annuity Information

New Tax Law Improves Your Tax Sheltered Annuity and Allows More Retirement Savings

In the last few days before its August recess for political party conventions, Congress passed several bills that include substantial tax law changes. The President signed these bills August 20-22, 1996. This "New Law" contains many federal tax law changes, including some that improve your § 403(b) tax sheltered annuity program.

Tax sheltered annuities have a long history under America's tax law. The New Law recognizes TSAs as highly individual arrangements.

No More One Salary Reduction Agreement Rule

Under the New Law, the old-fashioned "one salary reduction agreement per year" rule is abolished. Now, you can change your salary reduction as often as you wish, subject to your employer's payroll rules.

Of course, you should carefully consider your retirement planning; so talk with your Copeland Account Executive. This change was made effective January 1, 1996; so you can make a change right now if you want to. Why not consider enhancing your retirement savings?

To Learn More

This article mentions only one of the hundreds of provisions in the New Tax Law. For more information, please call your Copeland Account Executive.

Safe Investments Carry Risk, Too

If your principal investment doesn't grow, your nest egg can't outpace inflation. Stability of investments may actually work against you as inflation eats away your principal.

Don't Overlook Inflation Risk

Low-risk investments help shelter you from the possibility of declines in value due to market downturns, but the passive effects of inflation can be just as damaging. As time passes and inflation progresses, your retirement funds may lose their purchasing power. For example, to buy what a dollar bought 30 years ago, you need \$5.40 in today's money.*

Hedge Against Inflation

To offset inflation risk associated with "safe" investments, consider investing at least a portion of your retirement money in growth assets, like stock funds. In most cases, the longer you have to invest, the more time you'll have to recover from potential stock market declines.

We Can Help Examine The Risk

No single investment strategy is ideal for everyone. To discuss which specific investments are best suited to your retirement needs and your tax sheltered annuity, see your Copeland Account Executive.

*Source: Stocks, Bonds, Bills and Inflation 1996 Yearbook, Ibbotson Associates.

Riding Out The Ups And Downs of The Stock Market

Many people eye their holdings when the stock market starts a downward plunge and wonder when they should get out. The answer? You should consider selling when you have reached your particular goal and avoid trying to time the market.

For Better or For Worse

By pulling out when the market is down, you may lose not only part of your investment, but also the potential for future gains. Markets often make their largest gains after their sharpest or lengthiest declines.

How To Tame A Bear Market

Here are a few strategies to keep in mind when the inevitable bear market arrives.

- **Don't panic!** Remember that your "losses" are only paper losses unless you sell. You may want to keep your money in the market and view this as an opportunity to add high-quality stocks and funds to your portfolio at a discounted price.
- **Have realistic expectations of your portfolio.**
- **Diversify your holdings.** By spreading your portfolio around, you are more likely to blunt the effects of a bear market.
- **Practice dollar-cost averaging.** This is a technique that involves investing a fixed amount of money at fixed intervals.

Let Copeland Come Along For The Ride

Nobody knows where the stock market is headed, but most experts agree that stock-based investments may be the best way for your funds to outpace inflation in the long run. For further information about asset allocation and dollar-cost averaging, contact your Copeland Account Executive.



CLINICAL CAREER SCHOLARSHIP

Melissa Noel Yurek, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ted Yurek, Hazleton, received the Clinical Careers Scholarship for 1996-1997. The scholarship pays for her final year of college tuition. Melissa, a graduate of Bishop Hafey High School, is graduating in May with a Masters degree in Physical Therapy from Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science. Her school activities include: member of the Physical Therapy Club, American Physical Therapy Association, Phi Delta Chi, intramural volleyball and Dean's list. She recently, attended the 1996 Pennsylvania Physical Therapy Conference. Melissa begins at HGH on July 7, 1997.



T. Jeffrey MacMillan, VP of Human Resources, is proud to present Melissa Noel Yurek with the Clinical Careers Scholarship.

HGH HiGH STEPPERS

The HGH HiGH STEPPERS, employee country and western line dancers, recently, performed at the Cancer Telethon. The group performed a spotlight dance entitled "She's Double Trouble" to the song No News by Lonestar. In the above picture, the group was presented with shirts to wear at the Cancer Telethon from the advisor of the Employee Activities Committee, Barbara Kalena.

The group originated in October, 1996, by the Employee Activities Committee. The group is instructed by Carol Hengst, from Sugarloaf, PA. Carol has been teaching country line dancing for several years.

The steppers are considering walking at the "Relay for Life" and performing in the "Funfest" parade. We are looking for new members. If you are interested in joining this group, please contact Martha Ciekalsky at 4838 or Barbara Massa at 4861.



Kneeling is Derek Fulton. (L-R) (1st row) - Barbara Ann Massa, Carol Hengst, Dance Instructor, Barbara Kalena, Advisor of Employee Activities Committee, Martha Ciekalsky.

(2nd row) - Kathy Caparro, Brenda Massa, Rose Andrejco, Patrice Mussoline, Evonne Fulton, Barbara Massa, Sandy Cusatis, Janis Pupach.



THANK YOU

On the evening of March 20, Hazleton General Hospital employees received an Employee Appreciation Award for exceeding the prior year contribution by at least 15% in support of the 1996 United Way Campaign. Employees of HGH received a Certificate of Appreciation plaque stating, "In recognition of your outstanding support and leadership in helping those in our community who depend on you. Thank you for your continued commitment to the United Way." Great Job!

Correction from the last *Highlights*:

Joseph Laczi, M.D., is Board Certified in Internal Medicine. It was printed that he was Board Eligible.

Department N.E.W.S

• HOUSEKEEPING

Joan Duffy will be returning to work on Monday, May 5. Welcome back Joan!

• OPERATING ROOM

Terry L. (Lex) Sypeck, BSN-CRNA, Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist, began employment with Conyngham Anesthesia Associates in September 1996. She graduated as an honor student from the Geisinger School of Anesthesia in Danville, PA on September 21, 1996. Sypeck was also an honor student who graduated from West Hazleton HIGH School in 1985 and Wilkes University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing in 1989. She presently resides in West Hazleton with her husband.

• RADIOLOGY

Hemi Parmer, RT(R)(M) and Amy Moleski, RT(R)(M) attended a seminar on "Innovations in Mammography."

UPCOMING EVENTS . . .

- May 1 Employee Activities Meeting at 9:00 a.m.
- May 5 Women's Task Force "Infant and Child CPR"
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
- May 7 National Anxiety Screening Day - Free lecture at 6:00 p.m.
- May 13 Alliance Health Fair at the Laurel Mall
- May 21 Women's Task Force and Womankind "Sandwich Generation"
program 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
- June 4 Women's Task Force and Womankind "Evening Health Fair"
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

THE BLIZZARD OF 1997



Monday evening, March 31, became a disaster for holiday travelers. The Red Cross

designated Hazleton General Hospital's Office & Education Building as a shelter. One hundred and twelve people stayed the night in the O&E Building. Little did the Red Cross know that our

main Hospital lobby also became a shelter for approximately two hundred more travelers. In addition, to the three hundred people, we took in a couple dogs and one cat.

We were, also, privileged to have the Honorable Banny deBrum, the Ambassador from the Republic of the Marshall Islands to the

United States, as one of our guests. Holly M. Barker, Senior Advisor to the Ambassador, wrote a letter to Mr. Moore stating, "Ambassador deBrum and his family were brought to Hazleton Hospital by the National Guard last night when the blizzard left them stranded on the highway. When I spoke to the Ambassador on the telephone, he talked about the

ways that every staff member at Hazleton Hospital from the top tier to the cafeteria workers - are courteous, and willing to come to the assistance of those in need during a crisis.

"This experience at Hazleton Hospital reminds me of how much good there is in the world."

Ambassador deBrum

Ambassador deBrum and his family are impressed by the kindness and professionalism of everyone at Hazleton Hospital. Before hanging up the telephone today, the Ambassador said: "This experience at Hazleton Hospital reminds me of how much good there is in the world."

Easter Basket Raffle



It's a girl and it's a boy
Easter baskets were raffled on March 25 as a fundraiser for the HGH Auxiliary. The winner of the girl basket was Brianna Romanchick, ticket number 155423 and the winner of the boy basket was Theresa Zogby from Catholic Social Services, ticket number 478160. The raffle raised over \$700.

Pictured from (L-R) are Jean Yuhas, Rosemary Urillo, Auxiliary President, and Rose DeJoseph.

• LIBRARY NEWS •

INTERNET CLASSES:

During National Library Week (April 13-19), interested physicians and hospital staff attended "Overview of the Internet" classes held at both HGH and HSJMC libraries. Physicians and staff can now sign up for a one-on-one class with the medical librarian at either library. Call 450-4250 to schedule a class.

PennCARE:

On April 28, physicians, managers, and hospital staff attended knowledge-based vendor demonstrations held at HSJMC. As soon as all the PennCARE hospitals host these demonstrations, a selection will be made to have a system available through PennCARE Net. The system that is selected will then be made available to physicians and staff on their computer systems.

NEW CD ROM PROGRAMS AVAILABLE IN THE LIBRARY:

The Dissectable Human: offers a unique approach to studying systems based on anatomy. The program contains three unique viewers: The large image viewer - allows full size high resolution

images to be viewed; dissection viewer, a specialized 3D viewer allows cut-aways and peel-aways, cutting planes and wedge dissections. The 3D Viewer allows the user to rotate structures around vertical or horizontal axis.

Procedural Skills for Internal Medicine: 2 CD Roms that contain over 40 video clips showing how to do the following procedures:

- Central Venous Line Placement
- Thoracentesis
- Joint Aspiration of the Knee
- Lumbar Puncture
- Abdominal Paracentesis
- Arterial Puncture for Blood Gas Analysis
- Nasogastric Intubation

Come to the library to see these new programs!

MEMORIALS:

During the past year the Medical Library received approximately 130 memorials. You can remember a loved one by placing a memorial in the medical library. Contact the library for more information.

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Newsletter of Hazleton General Hospital

HIGHlights

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Public Affairs Department